

## **Patient Safety Initiatives**

### **February 2005**

CMS is committed to its beneficiaries and aims to ensure that they receive the right care at the right time. Giving the right care, to the right person, at the right time is the basis of patient safety and is a concern of everyone in the health care field. A report by the Institute Of Medicine, "To Err Is Human," discussed the need for increased safety in health care. As a result of the concerns raised by the IOM report, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the ESRD Network Organizations, and the Forum of ESRD Networks have provided educational materials to national and local health leadership in order to raise awareness and foster improvement in health care safety.

In order to raise awareness further and make health care even safer, especially the care provided in dialysis facilities, ESRD Network #1 has conducted a literature review and created a Task Force of experts to identify safety problems and concerns. The identified concerns were evaluated for their frequency, causes, prevention, and professionals' response to, as well as attitudes toward safety incidents (where problems occurred) and near misses (where problems could have occurred). Once the patient safety risk areas were identified, they were reviewed by the large dialysis provider corporations and ranked by importance. The top patient safety risk concerns were analyzed for their data elements, and a pilot project is being conducted in about 10 dialysis facilities.

After the six-month pilot project, Network #1 will evaluate the lessons learned from the pilot and develop a "safety tool kit" for other Networks to use in their region to increase the safety in dialysis units providing care to Medicare's ESRD beneficiaries.